

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An automated planter includes a ~~is described and claimed,~~  
~~the planter comprising:~~ locating device means arranged to locate  
a propagation tray (2); at least one plant extraction device  
~~means (5)~~ adapted to pull a plant out of a propagation tray (2)  
located by the locating device means; and a delivery assembly  
~~means~~ arranged to receive a plant extracted by the at least  
one plant extraction device means (5) and deliver the received  
plant to the ground. ~~Preferably, the~~ The planter lifts the plants  
out of their cells in the tray by inserting fingers (8), which  
are caused to converge to pinch the root ball (4). ~~Preferably,~~  
~~the~~ A plant transport means comprises includes two tracks, such  
that one can be loaded while the other is transporting plants to  
the delivery assembly ~~planting device. A corresponding method of~~  
~~extracting and planting plants from propagation trays (2) is also~~  
~~claimed.~~